

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of : Hirokazu TAKENAKA, Hisao SHIRASAWA, Yuki MATSUSHIMA  
Serial No. : Not Yet Known  
Date Filed : Herewith  
For : IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING  
METHOD, AND IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the information identified herein is also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The following commonly-owned U.S. patent applications are brought to the attention of the Examiner:

- (a) U.S. Patent Application No. 431,999, filed November 2, 1999;

Application of: Hirokazu TAKENAKA et al.  
Serial No.: Not yet known  
Filed: Herewith  
Page 2

Dkt. 2271/71084

(b) U.S. Patent Application No. 726,559, filed December 1, 2000; and

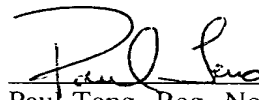
(c) U.S. Patent Application No. 903,577, filed July 13, 2001.

Copy of the commonly-owned U.S. patent application (b) is enclosed herewith.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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New York, New York 10036  
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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>		<b>U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office</b>		Atty. Docket No. <b>2271/71084</b>		Serial No. <b>Not Yet Known</b>								
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicants: <b>Hirokazu TAKENAKA et al.</b>										
				Filing Date: <b>Herewith</b>		Group Art Unit:								
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>														
Examiner Initial	Document Number						Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate			
		5	2	9	9	0	2	5	3-29-94	Shirasawa				
		5	6	8	9	5	9	0	11-18-97	Shirasawa et al.				
		5	6	9	6	8	4	2	12-9-97	Shirasawa et al.				
		6	1	3	7	5	9	5	10-24-00	Sakuyama et al.				
		6	2	2	6	0	1	1	5-1-01	Sakuyama et al.				
		20	01	/0	05	29	9	0	12-20-01	Shirasawa				
		20	02	/0	12	21	9	3	9-5-02	Shirasawa				
		20	03	/0	02	09	7	4	1-30-03	Matsushima				
		20	03	/0	09	94	0	7	5-29-03	Matsushima				
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>														
		Document Number						Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation		
												Yes	No	
		JP	1	1-	2	2	5	2	7	9	8-17-99	Japan		Abstract
		JP	20	01	-	8	6	3	6	0	3-30-01	Japan		Abstract
		JP	20	02	-	1	0	0	9	6	1-11-02	Japan		Abstract
		JP	20	02	-	3	3	9	3	0	1-31-02	Japan		Abstract
		JP	20	02	-1	8	5	8	0	8	6-28-02	Japan		Abstract
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>														
		U.S. Patent Application No. 431,999, filed November 2, 1999.												
		U.S. Patent Application No. 726,559, filed December 1, 2000.												
		U.S. Patent Application No. 903,577, filed July 13, 2001.												
<b>EXAMINER</b>								<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>						

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.